

STATEWIDE RFA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALLS  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 5, 2018  
Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm  
Location: Conference Call  
Call-In: 877-873-8017 Code: 5396369

County TA Questions	CDSS Response	Action Item
1) Courts are charging fees for court documents. Is there any way to get around paying if unknown what or how many pages are needed?	The fees are not driven by CDSS. Each county has their own fees or processes for getting information. Some counties have fees while some don't.	CDSS will check with enforcement attorney to clarify what pages are needed for hearings.
2) Clarification on annual approval date: if a family was approved in April of 2017 and relocated in September 2017, is there a new annual date in September?	Annual updates are the only updates that change the annual review date. For this scenario, no, a new annual update would not be due in September. The family's annual approval would have been due April 2018. Please refer to section 9-02(e) of the Written Directives.	
3) If a county refers a family to an FFA to complete the RFA process after an emergency placement was made, what is the county's obligation in this circumstance?	County is responsible for the placement and would not receive an RFA application. County needs to communicate with FFA to ensure that the family is complying with the RFA requirements.	CDSS will follow up in regards to placements made pre-disposition hearing and post-disposition in relation to emergency placements and placement for compelling reason.
4) LIS background checks are still delayed. Are there any updates?	LIS is up to date, but there are issues regarding counties' receipt of encrypted emails. Please check with county IT department to determine if county is able to receive encrypted emails.	
5) County A completed an out of county request for county B, and after approval the resource family relocated to another county C. Who completes the relocation update?	Following the RFA case transfer protocol adopted by CWDA, the county where the family resides should complete the relocation update. The protocol instructions are located on the RFA website or following this <a href="#">link</a> .	

6) If an applicant has a current open CPS case, can the family be denied?	The county cannot deny an applicant based on CWS history. The county will have to do the family evaluation and determine if the applicant meets the RFA requirements and take appropriate action after completing the family evaluation.	
7) Will RFA 06 be updated?	The RFA 06 will be posted in the near future	
8) Are there any updates regarding SB 1083?	The bill has not been chaptered yet. The bill includes language that will change the conversion deadline to 12/31/2020. Nothing is effective until January 1, 2019 if chaptered.	
9) Will future Written Directives remove the alternative caregiver requirements? Do counties have the authority to fingerprint alternative caregivers?	Alternative caregivers are utilized when the caregivers are absent from the home for longer than 24 hours, unless prohibited by the child's social worker or probation officer or court order. They are subject to fingerprint submission as outlined in Health and Safety code 1522 separate from the Resource Family approval and standards. Written Directives section 11-13 contains standards for care and supervision of a child, and section 11-13(c)(2) speaks specifically to alternative caregivers. The RFA worker may consider an applicant's ability to meet the Care and Supervision standards during the Permanency Assessment, but approving a substitute care provider (i.e., alternative caregiver, respite care provider, etc.) is a case management and placement concern outside the scope of RFA application and approval.	
10) An approved RF with the county is now approved by an FFA without notice from the RF or FFA. Should the county be given notice by FFA and does family have to surrender the approval?	The family has to surrender their approval since they are now approved with an FFA.	
11) Is there a difference between the county appeal process vs. FFA appeal process?	FFAs operate under Interim Licensing Standards, FFAs may have their own appeal process, but the ILS doesn't dictate a formal appeal process.	
12) Capacity: applicants have over 12 biological children and the majority of the children do not reside full time in the home. Is the county able to approve this family?	The county must do an assessment of the family and the home and the family's ability to care for the children.	

13) Does the sensitive information in the written report have to be redacted such as information regarding mitigating concerns?	No. They are included, however, any specific child information should not be included.	
14) Counties have been receiving written reports with photos of dependent children. Is this allowed?	The written reports will be shared with other units for placement purposes and there should not be any photos included in the written report.	
15) Can the Family Evaluation be shared with adoption agencies?	No, only the written report can be shared.	

#### **Updates:**

- **RFA 05C has been posted.**
- **RFA statewide convening October 15 & 16. Agenda were sent to POCs.**
- **RFA was implemented to better know caregivers and be sure they are able to care for children and youth in foster care. Not all applicants may be able to be approved. No quota requirement for approving homes.**
- **Child-specific approvals should be a rarity. Should only be used when a familial or relational connection outweighs any concerns. It should not be default approval methods. Could be more of a workload issue if family wishes to provide care for other children later.**
- **If the county contracts with FFAs for family evaluations, the county is still responsible for assessing the information provided by the FFA and incorporating the relevant information into a written report. The FFA's family evaluation is not to be used as a supplement to the written report.**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 3, 2018; 1:30-2:30pm**